law. Government enquired into the matter and came to the conclusion that there is no corruption or malafide in the appointment of Smt. Manju Kala Pokhriyal as Traffic Assistant in Indian Airlines.

International flights from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport

2685. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of international flights now being operated from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport;

(b) whether any additional international flights are being planned in near future from this airport; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Following airlines are presently operating international flights to/through Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose international airport at Kolkata as per details indicated below:—

Indian Airlines:-	(i) Six flights/week to Bangkok, of which two are through Yangon. (ii) Three flights/week to Dhaka (iii) Two flights/week to Kathmandu.
Air India:-	Two flights/week through Kolkata to Bangkok.
Biman Bangladesh:-	(i) Fifteen flights/week from Dhaka (ii) Two flights/week from Chittagong.
British Airways:-	Two flights/week from London.
Druk Air:-	Three flights/week from Paro beyond to Bangkok.
Royal Jordanian:-	Two flights/week from Amman beyond to Kuala Lumpur.
Royal Brunei Airlines:-	Two flights/week from Brunei *via* Singapore.
Singapore Airlines:-	Three flights/week from Singapore.
Thai Airways:-	Three flights/week from Bangkok.

(b) and (c) Designated airlines of more than 35 countries are presently having flying rights to Kolkata. Decision regarding actual operations are, however, taken by them on the basis of their commercial judgement.

Overstaffing in IA and AI

2686. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the cadre-wise overstaff position of Indian Airlines and Air India and the steps taken by the management to deal with the situation including that of voluntary/premature retirement;

(b) the number of employees who applied for voluntary/premature retirement during the last two years and till October, 2002 indicating the number of applications rejected with case-wise reasons for rejection; and

(c) the steps taken for preventing outflow of skilled manpower and recruiting young talent to improve the performance level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) According to airlines, there is no overstaffing. A number of activities which are out-sourced by foreign airlines are undertaken inhouse by the two airlines in view of local labour laws. However, Air India and Indian Airlines have jointly appointed a Consultant to formulate a long term business plan for the two airlines. The Consultant will, *inter-alia*, study the human resources aspect of the two airlines as well. The Consultant will submit their report within six months.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme in respect of Air India & Indian Airlines is yet to be finalised. However, in Air India 69 employees have voluntarily retired *w.e.f.* 01st April, 2000 to 31st October, 2002. In Indian Airlines, 87 employees have voluntarily retired during the last two years *w.e.f.* 01st November, 2000 to 31st October, 2002. The requests of 5 employees in Indian Airlines were not acceded to as in 4 cases, the Medical Board had found them fit to continue in job and another 1 case was rejected due to the shortage of staff.